

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

13 DECEMBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Bolivia

a. There has been no significant movement in the Bolivian situation.

b. Paz hopes now to conciliate the miners by offering to exile their jailed leaders rather than try them.

c. He is also allowing Monsignor Kennedy, a US priest who has been working in Bolivia for a long time, to try to negotiate a break in the deadlock.



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e. Lechin has threatened to liquidate the hostages if the government forces move.



50X1

g. Yesterday's Lechinist demonstrations in La Paz evoked little stir.

2. Berlin

a. West Germans and East Berlin officials may reach agreement today on arrangements for permitting West Berliners to visit relatives in East Berlin between 15 December and 5 January.

b. The East Germans have been eager to get their proposal accepted and to do so have been careful to set no conditions the West Berliners could not agree to. They have accepted all arrangements proposed by the West Berliners.

c. The East Germans evidently consider the mere fact of negotiations between a member of the West Berlin Senate and an East German state secretary (in the Culture Ministry) a big step of itself.

3. Cuba-US

a. The Cubans have let us know through Swiss Ambassador Stadelhofer that they plan a "large fishing operation" soon near but not within US territorial waters.

b. The Cubans said they wanted to be sure we knew what was up so that there would be no incidents.

4. Cuba-Chile

a. The Cubans are looking to Chile for some 100,000 tons of nitrates [redacted]

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b. The Soviets supplied over 300,000 tons of fertilizer to Cuba this year, but, in view of their problems at home, may have told the Cubans they can no longer keep it up.

c. The Chileans are interested [redacted]

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5. OAS

a. Mexico [redacted]

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[redacted] is not bothering to wait for the OAS investigating committee to report; it has already decided that Venezuela's charge against Cuba is unfounded.

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b. The arms cache, the Mexicans say, is nothing but a "plant."

c. Brazil is inclined to feel the same way and a number of others will probably now be persuaded to equivocate too.

6. Cambodia

a. The British and French lined up about as expected in talks yesterday on Sihanouk's call for a conference to guarantee his neutrality.

b. The British are lukewarm, will go along if "terms are acceptable."

c. The French are strongly in favor, and worried lest rejection by the West throw Sihanouk to the Chinese.

d. The Soviets have told the British they favor a conference--also no surprise.

e. The news of Sihanouk's recall of his ambassador here hit the conference room in Paris in time to reinforce US arguments. It had considerable impact on the French.

NOTES

- A. International Oil Market The members of the organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries seem determined to preserve the unity they displayed last week in rejecting the increase in royalties offered by the oil companies. They will be meeting again on 24 December in Riyadh to decide how best to combat the divide and conquer tactics of the companies and make their demand for higher royalty payments stick.
- B. Thailand SEATO SEATO's Thai Secretary General, Pote Sarasin, is resigning at his government's request to take up a job in the new administration at home. The present Thai representative on the SEATO council, General Konthi, is being mentioned as a possible interim replacement for Sarasin.
- C. Yemen Spinelli, the UN chief observer in Yemen, says, on the basis of "close observation," he believes there could be no more than 20,000 Egyptian troops in Yemen. Nasir's own aides on Wednesday told Ambassador Badeau that Egyptian strength there was 28,000-- a figure which is probably close to fact in view of a few recent withdrawals.